

CHAPTER 1.1.3.

NOTIFICATION AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Article 1.1.3.1.

For the purposes of the *Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Statutes, every Member Country of the OIE shall recognise the right of the *Central Bureau* to communicate directly with the *Veterinary Administration* of its territory or territories.

All *notifications* and all information sent by the OIE to the *Veterinary Administration* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to the OIE by the *Veterinary Administration* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

Article 1.1.3.2.

1. Countries shall make available to other countries, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important animal diseases and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases.
2. To achieve this, countries shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Article 1.1.3.3.
3. To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the format given in *Animal Health Status Reports* 1 to 3.
4. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between disease agents and diseases is constantly developing and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of a disease, countries shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of paragraph 1 above.
5. In addition to notifying new findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3.3., countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of diseases; including quarantine measures and restrictions on the movement of *animals*, animal products and biological products and other miscellaneous objects which could by their nature be responsible for transmission of disease. In the case of diseases transmitted by vectors, the measures taken against such vectors shall also be specified.

Article 1.1.3.3.

Veterinary Administrations shall send to the OIE:

1. *notification* by telegram, fax or e-mail, within 24 hours, of any of the following events:
 - a) for [*List A*] diseases listed by the OIE, the suspicion or confirmation of the first occurrence or re-occurrence of a disease, if the country or zone of the country was previously considered to be free from that particular disease;
 - b) for *List A* diseases, important new findings which are of epidemiological significance to other countries;

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- b) for *[List A]* diseases listed by the OIE, [a provisional diagnosis] evidence of changes in the characteristics of a disease (including host range, pathogenicity, strain) if this represents important new information of epidemiological significance to other countries, in particular if a disease may have a zoonotic impact;
- c) for diseases not listed by the OIE [in *List A*], if there [are new findings which are of] is information of exceptional epidemiological significance to other countries, in particular if a disease may have a zoonotic impact;

in deciding whether findings justify immediate *notification*, countries must ensure that they comply with the obligations of Section 1.2. (especially Article 1.2.1.3.) of the *Code*, to report developments which may have implications for *international trade*;

- 2. weekly reports by telegram, fax or email subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of an incident which justified urgent *notification*; these reports should continue until the disease has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable that monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the country to the OIE;
- 3. monthly reports on the absence or presence, and evolution of diseases listed by the OIE [in *List A*,] and [findings] information of epidemiological significance [importance] to other countries [with respect to diseases which are not in *List A*];
- 4. annual reports on all diseases listed by the OIE [in *List A* and *List B*] and any other [diseases considered to be of socio-economic importance or of major veterinary interest] information of epidemiological significance to other countries.

Article 1.1.3.4.

- 1. The *Veterinary Administration* of a territory in which an *infected zone* was located shall inform the *Central Bureau* when this zone is free from the disease.
- 2. An *infected zone* for a particular disease shall be considered as such until a period exceeding the *infective period* specified in the *Code* has elapsed after the last reported *case*, and when full prophylactic and appropriate animal health measures have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the disease. These measures will be found in detail in the various chapters of Section 2.1. of this *Code*.
- 3. A country may be considered to regain freedom from a specific disease when all conditions given in the corresponding chapters of Section 2.1. of this *Code* have been fulfilled.
- 4. The *Veterinary Administration* of a country which sets up one or several *free zones* shall inform the OIE giving necessary particulars and indicating clearly the location of the zones on a map of the country.

Article 1.1.3.5.

Veterinary Administrations shall communicate to the OIE the provisions of their quarantine regulations and importation and exportation animal health regulations.

They shall also communicate any amendments to their regulations as soon as they are made and, at the latest, before the annual General Session of the OIE International Committee.

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Article 1.1.3.6.

1. The *Central Bureau* shall send by telegram, fax, email or *Disease Information* to the *Veterinary Administrations* concerned, all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.1.3.2. to 1.1.3.4.
2. The *Central Bureau* shall despatch by the OIE *Bulletin* the number of new *outbreaks* of listed [List A] diseases.
3. The *Central Bureau*, on the basis of information received and of any official communication, shall prepare an annual report concerning the application of the *Code* and its effects on *international trade*.

Article 1.1.3.7.

All telegrams or faxes sent by *Veterinary Administrations* in pursuance of Articles 1.1.3.3. and 1.1.3.6. shall receive priority in accordance with the circumstances. Communications by telephone, telegram or fax, sent in the case of exceptional urgency when there is danger of spread of a notifiable epizootic disease, shall be given the highest priority accorded to these communications by the International Arrangements of Telecommunications.